(c) whether the ECL has chalked out any alternate plan/scheme for the welfare of the families out of those employees which are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration, technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the workers in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 26 cool mines have been identified by ECL for suspension of operation in a phased manner. The location of these mines, State-wise, and reasons for suspension are as under:—

Company	West Bengal	Jharkhand	Reasons for the proposed supension of operation
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	23	3	Economically unviable

However Government have stated on several occasions that workmen will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (b) of the question.

Privatisation of coal mines

2784. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans of privatisation or disinvestment of coal mines;

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps the Government propose to take in case of loss-making mines;

(d) investment that the Coal Ministry plans to make in the Tenth Plan; and

(e) the profit making coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given to part (a) of the question.

(c) In the case of loss making mines all efforts are made by the coal companies to make the operations viable which include improving labour productivity, better capacity utilisation of machinery, employing better technology and management practices etc. failing which suspension of operations is also considered.

(d) The proposed investments of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for the Tenth Plan period are given below:—

Company	Investment (Rs. in crore)
ECL	1460
BCCL	1300
CCL	1250
NCL	2750
WCL	1435
SECL	3520
MCL	2500
OTHERS	95
TOTAL	14310

(e) 156 mines of CIL earned profit during 2001 -2002. Subsidiary-wise break-up of the same is as under:—

Company	No. of profit making mines
ECL	18
BCCL	20
CCL	17
NCL	8
WCL	40
SECL	44
MCL	9
TOTAL	156